

Message Text

PAGE 01 TOKYO 07562 070243Z

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ACTION CU-04

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: SCUL

SUBJECT: PROPOSED BICENTENNIAL VISIT BY JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTS
GROUP

1. NIPPON BUDOKAN, ONE OF JAPAN'S MAJOR ORGANIZATIONS FOR PROMOTING TRADITIONAL MARTIAL ARTS, HAS ASKED EMBASSY TO RECOMMEND ORGANIZATION OR OTHER SUITABLE CONTACT IN USA WHO MIGHT COORDINATE PROPOSED VISIT TO U.S. IN BICENTENNIAL CONTEXT BY LARGE GROUP OF JAPANESE EXPERTS IN THE MARTIAL ARTS.

2. BUDOKAN THINKING IN TERMS OF HUNDRED TO 150 JAPANESE IN DELEGATION, INCLUDING FAMILIAR TECHNIQUES LIKE JUDO, KARATE, KENDO, BUT ALSO MORE UNUSUAL AND SPECTACULAR ARTS LIKE IAIDO (SWORD-PRACTICE) AND NAGINATA (HALBERD.) BUDOKAN ORGANIZED DEMONSTRATION OF SIMILAR NATURE FOR PRESIDENT FORD IN NOVEMBER.

3. BUDOKAN PROPOSES PAY ALL INTERNATIONAL AND DOMESTIC TRAVEL AND HOTEL COSTS. GROUP COULD BEGIN TRAVEL ANY TIME FROM SEPTEMBER/OCTOBER 1975 THROUGH END 1976. THEY THINKING IN TERMS OF DURATION OF UP TO TWO MONTHS.

4. COULD DEPARTMENT HELP IN SUGGESTING ORGANIZATION OR PRIVATE PROMOTERS WHO QUALIFIED ORGANIZE U.S. SIDE OF
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PAGE 02 TOKYO 07562 070243Z

TOUR OF THIS KIND? PART OF STAY MIGHT BE AT PACIFIC 21, BICENTENNIAL QUASI-FAIR WHICH WOULD BE OPERATING IN LOS ANGELES JUNE 19 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 19, 1976. BUDOKAN ESPECIALLY INTERESTED, HOWEVER, IN APPEARANCES AT MIDWESTERN

AND EASTERN CITIES WHERE AWARENESS OF JAPANESE MARTIAL ARTS LESS DEVELOPED. ONE APPROACH COULD BE TO CONCENTRATE ON HIGH SCHOOLS AND UNIVERSITIES, POSSIBLY WITH MAIN GROUP DIVIDED INTO TEAMS FOR DEMONSTRATIONS AT A NUMBER OF INSTITUTIONS IN SAME METROPOLITAN AREA.

5. EMBASSY CONSIDERS THAT THIS PROPOSAL HAS GREAT POTENTIAL. IT WOULD TEND BALANCE ONE-WAY SPORTS TRAFFIC BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES, IN WHICH AMERICAN TEAMS COMING TO JAPAN MUCH MORE NUMEROUS THAN JAPANESE VISITING USA. IT WOULD CONSTITUTE ATTRACTIVE, DRAMATIC BICENTENNIAL ACTIVITY WITH BROAD GRASSROOTS POSSIBILITIES.

6. PLEASE CABLE SUGGESTIONS.
HODGSON

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